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Mexico Expelled 6 Bay 'Hippies'

The U.S. State Department confirmed today that six Bay Area members of the Communist-infiltrated Students for a Democratic Society were forcibly expelled from Mexico on March 8.

But a spokesman for the security affairs desk in the State Department said it was "strictly a Mexican government internal affair and we were not directly involved."

'KIDNAPED'

He said the Mexican authorities expelled them because they were considered to be hippies, and "hippies are persona non grata in Mexico."

The local residents claim they were "kidnaped" by Mexican agents while they

were trying to board a plane from Mexico City to Cuba, and implied that the CIA was involved.

However, it was learned at the same time that a group of 20 SDS members from eastern states was permitted to fly from Mexico City to Havana on Feb. 6, on an all-expense paid visit as guests of the Young Communist League of Cuba.

VIA CANADA

Mexico permitted the departure after photographing each of the students, but did not permit them to return, via Mexico.

After a month in Castro land, the group took a Soviet freighter to Montreal and returned home by way of the Canadian border.

The irate Bay Area residents told newsmen here yesterday that they were forced into station wagons by 10 armed men at the Mexico City Airport last Friday and taken on a 20 hour trip to the border where they were told not to return without special permission of the Mexican government.

The six are Barbara Cieciorka, 25 (presently in Chicago), staff member of The Movement newspaper; Karen Wald, 24, Cornell graduate and staff member of The Movement and The Guardi-

an; Jack Bloom, 25, and Harold Jacobs, 26, both graduate students in sociology at Berkeley; Connie Kurz, 24, graduate student in history and economics at San Jose State College; and Stuart McRae, editor of Resist Magazine.

FILE PROTEST

The group has filed a protest with the Mexican Consulate here and plans to file a protest with the U.S. State Department.

And Miss Wald said they will return to complete what the group termed their trip for journalistic and research purposes: "We will not be frightened by gangster tactics."

Jacobs said that when the group left San Francisco on March 6, four of them had clearances for the trip to Cuba pending with the State Department and the applications of two others had been rejected.

They claimed that the Mexican Government had no reason to prevent their journey to Cuba since Mexico and Cuba have diplomatic relations.

Jacobs assumed that the U.S. State Department interfered in order to stem the recent "stream" of American journalists and scholars to Cuba.

Miss Wald said more specifically: "Personally, I would assume the CIA was involved in this."

She told of being thrown bodily into a car along with Jacobs at the Mexico City airport, when the group asked for identification of some 10 men "in suits and neckties" who approached them when they were about to board the plane to Cuba.

The others entered the two station wagons quietly after the couple was thrown in, she said.

"We hadn't broken any laws inside Mexico," said Miss Wald and added that neither the Mexican nor American border authorities would explain why they had been ejected from the country.